Expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants

7514. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector steel plant units which are under expansion;

(b) whether there are any units which have already been commissioned but are laying idle or are working below their installed capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Integrated steel plants of SAIL at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro are currently under different stages of modernisation. These projects are yet to be fully completed. Units taken up for modernisation at Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants are being progressively commissioned and operating at varying levels of capacity utilisation. None of the major units are idle, although some of the modernised units are working below their full capacity due to phased commissioning, stabilisation process, paucity of orders etc.

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant which was commissioned in July, 1992 is presently in the process of optimising its production and is likely to achieve 100% capacity utilisation by 1996-97.

Consumption of Coin Blanks

7515. SHRI JOBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4176 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the total consumption of coin blanks by all the four mints put together ranges from 1600 to 1800 million pieces if so, what are the reasons that Government is not utilising the total production of Salem Steel Plant; and

(b) whether Government proposed to take any step to step up the order position of coin blanks to SSP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The consumption of coin blanks by all the four Mints put together ranges from 1600 to 1800 million pieces. Salem Steel Plant can meet the demand through direct supply of 3000 tonnes and the balance, if any, by conversion of Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Strips to Coin blanks abroad.

The total requirement of coin blanks is met through various sources, which include own production of coin blanks by the India Government Mints as well as procurement from external sources which inter alia include supplies made by Salem Steel Plant.

(b) Ministry of Steel has been assisting SSP enabling it to secure maximum orders from India Government Mint. Besides, SSP has also been advised to explore export markets as well as other indigencous uses, so as to step up the capacity utilisation of the Coin blanking line.

MOU on project management and consultancy by SAIL

7516. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has signed MOUs with the four international companies for export of project management and consultancy in the global steel market; and

(b) if so, the details of MOUs and the name of the four companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL has signed Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation for

third party assignments with the following four international companies:

1. M/s. VATS, Austria.
2. M/s. GIPROMEZ, Russia.
3. M/s. Hoogovens Technical Services (HTS) By, The Netherlands.
4. M/s. Paul Wurth S.A., Luxembourg.

In these MOUs, the strengths and expertise of collaborating organisation have been properly identified, which will from the basis for entering into specific agreements for providing services to the clients.

Setting UP Steel Plant in Karnataka

7517. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small medium and big steel plants in public and private sectors in the country;

(b) the number out of them functioning in Karnataka;

(c) the number of licences given during 1994-95 for the setting up of steel plants in Karnataka;

(d) the number of applications for the grant of licence pending with Government;

(e) the details of steel plants producing quality steel; and

(0 the quantum of steel exported during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are 6 integrated steel plants and 2 special steel plants in public sector. Besides these, there are 7 Electric Arc Furnace Units (EAF) in public joint sector. In private sector there is 1 integrated steel plant, 175 Electric Arc Furnace Units and over 700 induction furnace units as on 31.3.95.

(b) Besides a large number of induction furnace units 13 steel plants are located in the State of Karnataka out of which 2 EAF units are reportedly closed.

(c) and (d) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron and steel unit does not require approval of Government for Industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 Kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census. No application for grant of licence is pending with the Government.

(e) The steel plants both in public and private sector based on modern technology are equipped to produce quality steel, as per market requirement.

(f) The quantity of saleable steel exports during 1993-94 & 1994-95 was about 16.01 lakh tonnes and 12.69 (Prov.) lakh tonnes, respectively.

Setting Up Alumina Plant

7518. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was proposal to setting a 100 percent export oriented Alumina plants;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to be set up in the private sector, public sector or in joint sector;

(c) the sites selected for that Alumina plant;

(d) the installed capacity of that plants and the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the employment expected to be generated in that plant and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) Ministry of Mines have given the details of proposals approved by the Government